

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**LOUISVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO LYING DURING A PAROLE
REVOCATION HEARING**

– Lied in Jefferson Circuit Court to help drug dealer

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **KEVIN HUNTER**, age 23, 1402 Bicknell Avenue Building 49, Louisville, Kentucky, **pled guilty** to the felony charge of accessory after the fact. The underlying crime involved the possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing cocaine base, commonly referred to as “crack cocaine.”

Hunter faces a potential sentence of 15 years’ imprisonment. He also faces maximum potential penalties of a \$2,000,000.00 fine and supervised release for up to 3 years. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Hunter pled guilty to this federal charge of being an accessory after the fact pursuant to a Plea Agreement. He had previously lied in Jefferson Circuit Court to protect Ja’mel Smithers during Smithers’ parole revocation hearing. He admitted, in open court and through the Plea Agreement, that on June 22, 2005, a Kentucky Probation and Parole Officer conducted a home visit on Ja’mel Smithers. She initiated the visit following her receipt of information that Smithers had rented a

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motel room in which marijuana had been found packaged for sale. The Kentucky Probation and Parole Officer and Louisville Metro Police (LMPD) Sergeant made the home visit. When they knocked on the door, Smithers invited them inside. Officers immediately smelled the odor of burnt marijuana. The Probation and Parole Officer, along with another Probation Officer, conducted a walk-through of the apartment and discovered a partially burnt marijuana blunt and a digital scale with white powder residue on Smithers' dresser in his bedroom.

The Probation and Parole Officer advised Smithers that she believed she had reasonable grounds to believe he was in violation of his probation and was going to conduct a more thorough search. Officers found a shoebox in the corner of the bedroom behind a chest. Inside the box, they found a pair of pants with three stacks of \$1,000 bundled and five bags of suspected cocaine powder - each weighing approx. 3 ounces. A search of a closet revealed approximately 2 ounces of suspected crack cocaine, a small bag of marijuana, \$120 in the pocket of a pair of jeans, and \$495 in a pants pocket of pants on the floor. The pants on the floor also included Smithers' Kentucky driver's license and other documents in Smithers' name.

Law enforcement submitted the suspected cocaine and cocaine base for chemical analysis. The Kentucky State Police Laboratory conducted the examination and prepared a report which indicated that the suspected cocaine base tested positive for cocaine base. The report showed a weight of 58.45 grams for the cocaine base. Forensic examination of the suspected powder cocaine revealed a positive result for cocaine hydrochloride. The report indicated a total weight of 401.26 grams of cocaine. Smithers possessed the cocaine and cocaine base (*i.e.*, "crack" cocaine), with the intent to distribute the substances.

During a parole revocation hearing conducted in Jefferson Circuit Court, Division 4, on September 15, 2005, **Hunter** appeared and testified. **Hunter** testified that the cocaine found in

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Smithers' bedroom belonged to him. He further testified that he is a drug dealer and that he had paid \$1,500 for the cocaine. He stated that he knew Smithers due to the fact that he dated Smithers' sister, Brandi. Prior to the parole revocation hearing, **Hunter** had been approached by a member of Smithers' family. The family member offered to pay **Hunter** to take responsibility for the drugs. The family member approached **Hunter** because **Hunter** had no prior criminal record and Smithers was facing a mandatory life sentence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless. The Louisville Metropolitan Police Department, Kentucky Department of Probation and Parole, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives conducted the investigation.

Hunter is scheduled to be sentenced on February 2, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., before United States District Judge Charles R. Simpson, III, in Louisville, Kentucky.

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